

The Way To Preparedness

A modified Swiss system of universal military training is the best system for this country. Owing to our immense population it may not be necessary to require enrolment in the organized reserve for so long a term of years as they do in Switzerland; but the principle followed over there is good and should be adopted here in its essentials.

The Swiss system is going to be talked about a good deal during the coming months. It will be discussed in congress and in the campaign. There is in the United States a large and influential group of public men who feel that even the president's plan for a larger army and organized reserve does not go far enough, and that we shall have to adopt a plan of far more comprehensive scope if we are to do our whole duty by the country. It is claimed for the Swiss that they put an army of 425,000 men on the frontiers within 48 hours after mobilization was ordered. Yet except for a small customs force and frontier patrol, this whole army was made up of citizens, who had been following their ordinary occupations up to the hour of the country's call. And now, the danger of invasion by the belligerents having become realized in the opinion of the government, 200,000 will be sent back to work, demobilized. In Switzerland every able bodied man is a soldier when needed, and a good one.

Yet little time is lost in training. Boys of 8 begin their physical training in school under military rules, and this is continued. Every teacher is a military instructor to this extent. Cadet corps are formed. Rifle practice begins early. At 20, each Swiss youth begins to receive a little field training each year. He is enrolled in the national army until he is 42, but during all but the first year his term of training is only a few days annually. The first year he serves for 67 days in the recruit training corps.

Every Swiss is a member of a rifle club, and annual national tournaments are held.

The system is simple, cheap, and effective. Why not adopt it for our own?

Our Duty and Opportunity

Speakers at the interstate Y. M. C. A. convention this week have brought out in strong relief the idea of El Paso's duties and responsibilities in this great southwestern field, which are inseparable from El Paso's opportunities. This city has reached a stage now where it attracts people and money from everywhere, and grows of itself. It draws not merely from a distance but from the near environment also, for permanent settlement here. El Paso derives profit and prosperity from all the activities of a vast area. The opportunities that are ours for developing the city's trade and financial power, are not likely to be made the most of, unless our people earnestly strive to give as well as gain, in their relations with the tributary region.

El Paso ought to be, not only an industrial, commercial, and financial center, but a center of social, educational, and religious progress, and wholesome entertainment. It ought to be possible for the people of the southwest to look to El Paso as their Mecca, to be visited every once in a while just for spiritual, mental, and physical refreshment.

This city can be, and ought to be, a real leader in all forward movements. This city should invent, and test, and inaugurate wisely progressive movements in social service. This city should have courses of lectures, musical festivals, conventions, expositions, of all sorts. Our people should travel more in the southwest, and should never omit an annual or semi-annual "Get Acquainted" excursion through the region.

And when it is necessary to extend financial cooperation in order to assist the neighbor communities in solving their problems, El Paso should be ready to give, in proportion to the benefits we cannot help receiving from the general development of the metropolitan area.

A German poet wrote a song of hate that kindled new bitterness in Germany and enraged the French; a French poet replied with an equally hard and bitter song of hate for Germans. When poets burn up with hate, the world goes back in civilization.

A Big Time—Come On In

Beginning Tuesday, and continuing for three days, El Paso will be the scene of a remarkable patriotic demonstration that will be worth coming hundreds of miles to witness and participate in. All the neighbors from three states, from everywhere in 24 hours journey, are invited and urged to come to El Paso and help celebrate. It will be something to remember long.

Tuesday the Liberty Bell will arrive here to be on public exhibition. The display of the Bell will be preceded by a military parade in which over 4000 troops will take part, half of them mounted troops, including the largest body of artillery ever seen together at one time in the southwest.

During and after the Bell celebration there will be concerts by four United States army bands. Three of them will be massed, to play patriotic music and to accompany the great chorus of 500 voices.

Wednesday and Thursday there will be a great military tournament, with all arms of the service participating, and a bewildering and rapid succession of most interesting games, drills, and contests. There will be opportunity to see the artillery, cavalry, infantry, signal service, engineers, commissary, hospital corps, and other branches in a greater variety of military evolutions and activities than the ordinary man would normally see in a lifetime.

During all the days of the military tournament there will be music by the army bands; the city will be decorated, and there will be an endless variety of general amusements for the visitors.

The weather is fine. Come on in and enjoy yourselves.

A few terrible accidents may make El Paso streets safer for those who are not killed; but the pity is that the victims of reckless driving must be sacrificed, to open the eyes of the town. There is too much plunging down the streets taking chances at every crossing, too much whirling by the shortest possible cut around corners, too much edging in between cars and around heavy trucks.

Good Times Here

Prosperity is universal in the United States, and the general tone of sentiment is highly optimistic. In the big industrial centers, it is true, the influence of the stupendous war orders is paramount, and is likely to create some false impressions. But the general underlying stratum of the national industrial life is sound, and not even the cessation of the record breaking exports of manufactured goods would cause a crash.

Agriculture is having a year of exceptional prosperity. The farmers in most parts of the country have money to spend, and they are spending it. The sales of luxuries in the farm country are ahead of any previous period.

Labor is employed everywhere. There are comparatively few industrial disturbances, and most of those that occur are soon settled by compromise—neither side can afford to stay idle.

The number of idle railroad freight cars tends steadily to decrease. Railroad earnings are good, and net revenues are above those of recent years, thanks to rigid economies exercised.

In the southwest, the live stock industry is in better condition than it has been for years. Cattlemen are making money, and the stock country feels the surge of prosperity. Mines are active, and the demand large.

The southwest has felt less of the disturbances incident to the great war than most sections. Our progress and prosperity are steady and normal, not exceptional. The southwest is not dependent on war orders.

Prospects for opening Mexico are fair. El Paso is in position to reap the highest returns when this comes. We must hold ourselves ready to take the initial steps for reviving trade and reopening commercial intercourse, at the first possible moment.

If this country is going to take a hint from Europe and make winter sports fashionable, Cloudcroft will have to become a midwinter play ground sure enough.

El Paso's increasing love for music is good for El Paso and El Pasano. Rhythm makes for efficiency.

Short Snatches From Everywhere

Marriage is a tie, and is sometimes a forget-me-knot.—Philadelphia Record.

Share good news, but keep the bad things to yourself.—Silver City (N. M.) Independent.

The latest peace forecast from Britain is a call for 2,000,000 more men.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

It is an easy thing for a man to resist temptation if he has something better in sight.—New York World.

Villa can name another city capital of Mexico just as fast as Carranza can capture the last one.—Santa Fe New Mexican.

About the only Mexican mouth we have permanently silenced is one eating our army bacon at Fort Bliss.—Austin American.

As we understood it, secretary McAdams is trying to bait the ship-purchase trap with preparedness.—San Bernardino (Calif.) Sun.

If the war shall continue, necessity will be the supreme law wherever there shall be the will to survive.—Milwaukee Leader.

If Germany doesn't finally get her place in the sun, she will undoubtedly be able to manufacture a chemical substitute.—New York Evening Sun.

Aristide Brind, the new French premier, talks like a man who keeps a big stick in his wardrobe surrounded by fighting clothes.—Dallas News.

Having provided Carranza with arms and ammunition, the next problem is to prevent Villa from taking them away from him.—Tucson (Ariz.) Star.

A lot of people who regarded the last legislature as a joke are beginning now to wake up and refer to it as a nightmare.—Las Cruces (N. M.) Republic.

The American doctors who cleaned up the typhus in Serbia took away her chief defence against invasion.—Nashville (Tenn.) Southern Lumberman.

Babies are succeeding to prunt titles in great numbers of noble houses have died on the battlefields of continental Europe.—Fort Worth Record.

Uncle Sam will be slow to declare contraband the shooes of gold bow flowing into this country, though some may want to try a tariff on them.—Knoxville (Tenn.) Sentinel.

The Germans are changing the names of those places taken from the Russians. If they have no further old monikers, they could use them nicely for college yells.—Manila (P. I.) Times.

United States Standing Army World's Largest Consists Of 5,000,000 Who Stand Up In Cars

By GEORGE FITCH.

THE standing army of the United States is the greatest in the world. There are statisticians who will indignantly deny this, but this is because they ride home in automobiles at night and do not know the other 49,999,999.

Our standing army consists of upwards of 5,000,000 people. Thanks to American civility, the majority of these are on stand only a mile or so each day, while others stand 10 miles a day, and have to transfer three times in the bargain.

The discipline of the American standing army is magnificent. This is because it is drilled regularly, twice a day. Every evening in every American city, whole cars full of our standing army can be seen obeying commands. After a man has belatedly, or a while he answers the command: "Step lively." "Move up in front." "Take the next car," like a well oiled machine.

Many members of our standing army are splendid athletes. Nothing is finer for the muscles than standing army drill. A veteran will carry four bundles and a garden rake under one arm, hang from a strap with one foot, hold up two large men on his feet for hours at a time.

The American standing army is very useful. It is used to build costly mansions and provide titled sons-in-law and other trinkets for street car magnates. When a magnate wants a new yacht

or an old master, he takes a few cars off his line and thus increases his standing army. In New York his many cars are crowded into a single car. This is accomplished by other members of the army who are trained to push and shove. Sometimes the patrons do. The former is considered more unfortunate by

the company. New York magnates are very kind to their standing army, however, and have recently put sanitary straps in their cars. New York is the only city where the standing army has a regular waiting list each night. This is because women are allowed to belong to it, however.

Contrary to custom in other countries, the American standing army draws no pay. On the contrary, it pays for the privilege of standing. This leads to the belief that the army would not be worth two bits in time of war.

An army which pays 5 cents per head for the privilege of hanging from a strap, and being punched in the back by a conductor, would probably thank the enemy with tears in its eyes while it was being kicked off the field of battle.—(Protected by the Adams Newspaper Service.)



The American standing army draws no pay.

Bedtime Story For the Little Ones

"Uncle Wiggly and the Snow Birds."

By HOWARD B. GARIS.

"UNCLE Wiggly, are you going out today?" asked Nurse Jane. "Fuzzy Wuzzy, the muskrat lady who kept the bottom stump here, the rabbit gentleman, the bunny man came down to breakfast one morning."

"Going out? Why, yes, I think so," answered Uncle Wiggly.

"I didn't think you would, seeing there is still a little snow on the ground," went on the muskrat lady. "But if you are going out, would you mind doing an errand for me?"

"Most certainly not," Uncle Wiggly answered. "It will give me great pleasure to run an errand for you, or even ten or half a dozen."

"One will be enough, thank you," said Nurse Jane, with a smile which made her tail curl up into a funny little hinky-knot, with a twinkle on the end like the one in Uncle Wiggly's nose. "I have some stale bread I want to send over to Mrs. Chuck-Cluck for Charlie and Arabella. Will you take it?"

"Of course I will," cried Uncle Wiggly. "But why do you send stale bread? Why not send fresh?"

"Because Mrs. Chuck-Cluck, the hen lady likes stale bread better for her children, Charlie and Arabella, than she does the fresh," replied the muskrat lady. "It is better for their digestion, and it makes nicer bread pudding, too."

"Very well, wrap up the stale bread and I'll take it," said the rabbit gentleman. He put on his tall silk hat, and his overcoat with the fur collar, and then, with his red woollen tip-top and his red and blue striped barber pole rheumatism crutch, that Nurse Jane had given him out of a cornstalk, away started Mr. Longears over the fields covered with ice and snow.

For it was winter in Woodland, where the animal folk lived, though there was not as much snow on the ground now as there had been the day Uncle Wiggly was snowed in his bungalow, and the good old scoldery alligator saved him out with his humpy-bumpy tail.

As Uncle Wiggly went on and on, all at once he heard the path ahead of him some and voices saying:

"Oh, how hungry we are!"

"Oh, if we could only find something to eat!"

"Alas! there is snow on the ground, and it covers from sight the things we might pick up."

Then spoke three sad voices, and looking carefully around the corner of a hollow stump, to make sure this was no bad harking dog, trying to play a trick on him, Uncle Wiggly saw some little snow birds huddled under a bush to keep warm.

"Why, hello, little snow birds!" exclaimed the jolly rabbit gentleman. "What seems to be the trouble?"

"Oh, we can find nothing to eat," said one bird.

The snow has covered everything up," spoke a second.

"And no one seems to remember about scattering crumbs on top of the snow for us," said the third shivering one.

"Ha! If that is all, I can soon help you out of your trouble," cried Uncle Wiggly with a jolly laugh. "Here are crumbs I have crumbled up some of the stale bread he was taking to the hen lady, well knowing there was more than she needed for Charlie and Arabella."

"Oh, Uncle Wiggly! How kind you are!" cried the snow birds, as they fluttered about, picking up the crumbs of bread. "Thank you so much!"

Then they ate until they were no longer hungry, and they were not so cold, either, for when you eat well you

can keep warmer. Then Uncle Wiggly gave the birds more crumbs for next day, and told them always to come to his bungalow when they could find nothing to eat elsewhere, and away he went to the chicken coop house.

"If ever we can do you a favor we will," Uncle Wiggly, the snow birds called after him.

"Thank you," he said to them. Mrs. Chuck-Cluck, the hen lady, was very glad to get the stale bread. And she made Uncle Wiggly a cup of carrot tea.

It was rather late when the rabbit gentleman started back for his bungalow, and he had not gone very far before it began to snow—quite hard. Faster and faster down came the flakes until Uncle Wiggly could hardly see the path.

"Oh, my! I fear I am going to be lost in the storm," thought Mr. Longears. "That would be too bad. I guess I had better go back to the chicken coop and stay all night with Mr. Cock A. Dooodle, the rooster gentleman."

But when Uncle Wiggly tried to find the path back the snow was so thick he could not. Nor could he even find the way to his hollow stump-bungalow. And the snow came down harder and faster.

"Oh, dear!" cried Uncle Wiggly. "What shall I do? I am freezing!"

"Come in here, Uncle Wiggly," said a little chirping voice. "See, with our chirping wings we have hollowed out a house under the snow. It is large enough for you and us. Come in and you will be warm, for it is not cold under the fluffy snow."

"Who are you?" asked the rabbit gentleman, in surprise.

"The snow birds you fed with the bread crumbs," was the answer. Then Uncle Wiggly saw the little white house the birds had made. In it he crawled, and he was no longer cold, and as he happened to have a carrot in his pocket, he had something to eat.

Uncle Wiggly stayed in the snow birds' house all night, one of the birds flying through the storm to tell Nurse Jane not to worry, because the rabbit gentleman did not come home, as he was all right.

And so Uncle Wiggly was, for in the little white house he slept as cozy as toast, with the warm wings of the snow birds to cover him up from the cold. In the morning the snow had stopped falling, and Uncle Wiggly could go on to his bungalow. But he never forgot the kindness of the snow birds.

And if the pancake turner doesn't fall down stairs with the eggbeater and scare the rolling pin so it can't dance on the fire, you tell your children about Uncle Wiggly and Uncle Butter.

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SAYS GERMANY IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE PEACE

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 12.—(By wire- less to Sayville, L. I.)—The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung recognizes the moderate tone of the speeches recently made in the British house of lords by Lord Lansdown, Milner and Courtney.

The paper says the German news agency "but it doubts whether their suggestions looking to a way out of the war dilemma will lead to a feasible peace proposal which is as well known Germany is always ready to seek."

The agency continues: "The newspaper points out that the speeches of the lords went unanswered, while three members of the British cabinet in the Guild hall announced a program for the annihilation of the German empire in spite of all political and military facts."

MORE Truth Than Poetry

See Fashion Pages Wedding Day. Mrs. Galt Spends Three Hours on Fifth Avenue.—Headline. And we venture a modest guess that three hours wasn't all she spent there.

Teaching Wilson's Soldiers. We don't want to be carrying or critical of anything like that, but we can't help wondering who is going to teach that army of 400,000 how to fight unless we have a few more army officers that are absolutely necessary on Mexico's border.

Playing With Fire. If we don't stop slapping John Bull's wrist he may get mad and write us a real nasty note some day.

Beauty in Distress? Chelsea, we learn, are useful aids to beauty. Women, some people hold, are never so lovely as when in tears.

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El Paso Looks Mighty Good To Home Goers Always Glad To Get Back To A Live Place

"A TRIP back to the old home is always a good thing for an El Paso man and it always results in greater regard for El Paso," said P. H. Marum. "I made a visit to my old home in West Virginia last summer and I caught myself comparing everything to El Paso to the credit of this city. I liked the paving better. The streets were cleaner, the buildings higher and the people here seemed to walk with more spring in their steps than the people did back home. This is nothing against my home town, but it only means that El Paso is my home and to her I give my devotion. After I had visited all of my friends, renewed acquaintances and spent some time with my relatives, I felt myself wanting to come back and I was glad when the time came for me to return."

"It is remarkable," said secretary M. A. Fraser, of the chamber of commerce, "that many of the owners of private cars in El Paso seem forced to keep them in the repair shop most of the time. Also, I note a strange condition here, which I think is worthy of passing comment. It is the great love manifested toward their wives by many of our prominent citizens who possess the latest wagons. I learn of these phenomena every time a visiting delegation figures in my work for a spin around this charming city. It is then that the census of 'busted' cars runs to unbelievable figures and the concern of husbands for the comfort of their better halves is at the human limit."

"Business is good in the eastern part of the country," said J. J. Finney. "I was in Tennessee and in Chicago and found conditions there very good, and from what I could learn of other sections of the east, conditions there were also good. I did not, however, find any city more prosperous than El Paso."

"We are having beautiful weather for the convention," said Herbert Tarnipout. "It is not as cold as it gets here about this time. The fall is the time of the year for conventions, as then the weather is crisp and the minds of men are crisp also, like crabs."

"While one may not absolutely agree with all of the ideas advanced by S. S. McClure in his lectures on organization in government, he has left a great many ideas that are well worth deep and serious thought," said Claiborne Adams. "I believe that his talks have reached a wide number of people and have opened up to them quite a new and different viewpoint in things governmental."

"Forty-four Bible classes of young women will be included in the Bible study conference of the Young Women's Christian association on Sunday afternoon," said Miss Florence Durken. "These Bible classes represent 15 churches besides the association classes, which mean that several hundred young women will be interested. The principal speaker at this conference is Fred S. Gooding, who has been so big a factor in the Y. M. C. A. convention this past week."

"A packing house for El Paso is a certainty," said George H. Clements. "When cattlemen in the tri-state territory tributary to this city come to a full realization of just what it means to have a market for their beef on the hoof at home, without the expenditure of big freight money and the loss of meat during the long, tedious journey to Kansas City or Chicago, they will not use up themselves before capital in the city itself has any information on their plans. And when Mexico opens another big field for supplying cattle to a nearby market will argue for an El Paso packing house."

"Helmets, Breast Plates and Cigar Cases of Steel Save Lives Of Soldiers"

Paris, France, Nov. 12.—Since the adoption for French troops of the first line of small, loose fitting chrome steel helmets the casualties due to wounds in the head have been reduced by 75 per cent, said a deputy today. Even bullets striking with direct impact are sometimes turned by the helmet.

Besides the large and absolutely bullet proof breastplates which the French also use for their dashes from trench to trench, plates of specially toughened steel are sometimes sewn into tunics over the heart.

The Germans have invented a special kind of cigar case to protect the heart, which has been found to save soldiers killed by wounds in other parts of the body. It is made of two plates of specially toughened steel.

The clear case is engraved with the legend "Always carry in the left hand breast pocket."

ABE MARTIN

One of the easiest ways to die is being killed by an unconfirmed report. Look out for it, fellow, you know I'm your friend.

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